

tool by empowering the USFA to serve the American fire service in a new capacity. The IAFF looks forward to working with you to secure the passage of H.R. 7077 as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. KELLY,
General President.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER), my freshman colleague.

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7077, the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act, which is an important piece of bipartisan legislation to support the U.S. Fire Administration.

I was honored to join my colleague we just heard from, Mr. RITCHIE TORRES, in introducing this bill, spurred from a terrible and heart-breaking tragedy in his district in New York.

That fire in the Bronx apartment building left us with many questions. Upon further examination, it became clear that there is currently a lack of coordination between the Federal U.S. Fire Administration and other State and local authorities. In fact, the U.S. Fire Administration does not have the authority to conduct on-site investigations of major fires. As a result, our State and local authorities are limited in their capabilities to investigate major fires.

The U.S. Fire Administration's expertise can and should be used to the fullest extent, in coordination with all existing authorities responsible for fire investigations.

That is why H.R. 7077 is so important. It simply addresses the existing coordination gap between Federal, State, and local authorities. It allows the U.S. Fire Administration to send investigators, including safety specialists, fire protection engineers, codes and standards experts, and fire training specialists to the site of a major fire so that these experts can then work on the ground with their State and local authorities to determine causes, examine building failures, provide answers to those affected by the fires, and establish lessons learned so similar tragedies can be prevented in the future.

The tragedy we saw in the Bronx was heartbreaking and should never have happened. We need answers, and we also need to ensure that something like this does not happen again. It is past time to allow the experts at all levels, Federal, State, and local, to coordinate and help us achieve this goal. This bill has received support from fire departments across the country, including my hometown of Grand Rapids, with our Grand Rapids Fire Department offering its support.

I thank my colleague, Mr. TORRES, without whom this wouldn't have happened, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. GONZALEZ for their work on this bill, as well as my dear colleague, Mrs. BICE, for her work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise again in support of H.R. 7077, the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act.

As I previously mentioned, the USFA has valuable and lifesaving resources in preventing, responding to, and investigating fires. This bill would ensure that State and local governments have access to these resources and that the U.S. Fire Administration has the authority needed to conduct on-site investigations of major fires.

We cannot afford to let any more tragic and preventable fires like the one in Representative TORRES' district happen in the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill, H.R. 7077, a bill to empower the U.S. Fire Administration to act in regard to the event of fires for investigative purposes.

I also note that the Members who are supporting this bill not only share a time zone but also share a generation and share a vision for the future, a vision for the future of this country that utilizes the best of government and interagency effort, government acting cohesively together when needed, having the Federal Government come in and support local fire departments in the wake of catastrophic fires.

This is quite palpable, Madam Speaker. The urgency to pass the bill, H.R. 7077, could not be more palpable.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7077, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROVIDING RESEARCH AND ESTIMATES OF CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION ACT

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1437) to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 to direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide comprehensive and regularly updated Federal precipitation information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1437

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Providing Research and Estimates of Changes In Precipitation Act" or the "PRECIP Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017 RELATING TO IMPROVING FEDERAL PRECIPITATION INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE VI—IMPROVING FEDERAL PRECIPITATION INFORMATION

"SEC. 601. STUDY ON PRECIPITATION ESTIMATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PRECIP Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall seek to enter an agreement with the National Academies—

"(1) to conduct a study on the state of practice and research needs for precipitation estimation, including probable maximum precipitation estimation; and

"(2) to submit, not later than 24 months after the date on which such agreement is finalized, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on a website, a report on the results of the study under paragraph (1).

"(b) STUDY.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

"(1) An examination of the current state of practice for precipitation estimation at scales appropriate for decisionmaker needs, and rationale for further evolution of this field.

"(2) An evaluation of best practices for precipitation estimation that are based on the best-available science, include assumptions of non-stationarity, and can be utilized by the user community.

"(3) A framework for—

"(A) the development of a National Guidance Document for estimating extreme precipitation in future conditions; and

"(B) evaluation of the strengths and challenges of the full spectrum of approaches, including for probable maximum precipitation studies.

"(4) A description of existing research needs in the field of precipitation estimation in order to modernize current methodologies and incorporate assumptions of non-stationarity.

"(5) A description of in-situ, airborne, and space-based observation requirements, that could enhance precipitation estimation and development of models, including an examination of the use of geographic information systems and geospatial technology for integration, analysis, and visualization of precipitation data.

"(6) A recommended plan for a Federal research and development program, including specifications for costs, timeframes, and responsible agencies for addressing identified research needs.

"(7) An analysis of the respective roles in precipitation estimation of various Federal agencies, academia, State, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and other public and private stakeholders.

“(8) Recommendations for data management to promote long-term needs such as enabling retrospective analyses and data discoverability, interoperability, and reuse.

“(9) Recommendations for how data and services from the entire enterprise can be best leveraged by the Federal Government.

“(10) A description of non-Federal precipitation data, its accessibility by the Federal Government, and ways for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve or expand such datasets.

“(11) Such other topics as the Administrator or National Academies consider appropriate.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized \$1,500,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this study.

“SEC. 602. IMPROVING PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the National Academies makes public the report under section 601, the Administrator, in consideration of the report recommendations, shall consult with relevant partners, including users of the data, on the development of a plan to—

“(1) not later than 6 years after the completion of such report and not less than every 10 years thereafter, update probable maximum precipitation estimates for the United States, such that each update includes estimates that incorporate assumptions of non-stationarity;

“(2) coordinate with partners to conduct research in the field of extreme precipitation estimation, in accordance with the research needs identified in such report;

“(3) make publicly available, in a searchable, interoperable format, all probable maximum precipitation studies developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that the Administrator has the legal right to redistribute and deemed to be at an appropriate state of development on an internet website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(4) ensure all probable maximum precipitation estimate data, products, and supporting documentation and metadata developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are preserved, curated, and served by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as appropriate.

“(b) NATIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES.—The Administrator, in collaboration with Federal agencies, State, territorial, Tribal and local governments, academia, and other partners the Administrator deems appropriate, shall develop a National Guidance Document that—

“(1) provides best practices that can be followed by Federal and State regulatory agencies, private meteorological consultants, and other users that perform probable maximum precipitation studies;

“(2) considers the recommendations provided in the National Academies study under section 601;

“(3) facilitates review of probable maximum precipitation studies by regulatory agencies;

“(4) provides confidence in regional and site-specific probable maximum precipitation estimates; and

“(5) includes such other topics as the Administrator deems appropriate.

“(c) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the National Academies makes public the report under section 601, the Administrator shall make publicly available the National Guidance Document under subsection (b) on an internet website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(d) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update the National Guidance Document not less than once every 10 years after the publication of the National Guidance Document under subsection (c) and publish such updates in accordance with such subsection.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this section:

“(1) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

“(2) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

“(3) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

“(4) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

“(5) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.

“(6) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.

“SEC. 603. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—The term ‘National Academies’ means the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(3) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’ means, collectively, each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501 note) is amended in the table of contents by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VI—IMPROVING FEDERAL PRECIPITATION INFORMATION

“Sec. 601. Study on precipitation estimation.

“Sec. 602. Improving probable maximum precipitation estimates.

“Sec. 603. Definitions.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1437, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1437, the Providing Research and Estimates of Changes in Precipitation, or PRECIP Act.

I commend Environment Subcommittee Chairwoman SHERRILL of the Science Committee on her work to bring the PRECIP Act to the House floor today. This bipartisan bill is the result of significant stakeholder engagement led by Congresswoman SHERRILL of New Jersey.

Precipitation data is used by decisionmakers like dam safety officials, flood plain managers, civil engineers, and Federal, State, and local officials, to build resilient infrastructure, something we care a lot about in this body, for communities.

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The precipitation data is extremely important for Michiganians. This is a huge reality for us, particularly in southeastern Michigan, after record, record rainfall over the last year.

The Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments organization found that changes in precipitation in the Great Lakes region will lead to more extreme precipitation events in the State of Michigan, otherwise known as flooding, a reality all too probable to the Speaker and myself, both hailing from southeast Michigan.

These extreme precipitation events can cause flooding and can also affect lake levels, which could have severe economic and ecological impacts across my home State of Michigan and certainly across the country.

The PRECIP Act would help to modernize outdated precipitation data across the country, and the bill also directs NOAA to update precipitation data on a regular cadence. This will not only address many precipitation estimates that are currently years, and sometimes decades, out of date, it will also help local responders act when their residents need them to. It will also help local elected officials coordinate with the Federal agencies in responding to extreme precipitation events. It will also ensure consistency in precipitation estimates across the United States; as we know, precipitation events do not respect State or regional boundaries.

As we are also anticipating an increase in frequency and intensity of precipitation events due to the reality of climate change, it is critical that this bill also requires NOAA to consider future climate change while updating these precipitation estimates. This will ensure that this data remains relevant for the future.

I am deeply proud to cosponsor this bill that has both bipartisan and bicameral support. Its passage will positively impact all Americans, and I urge my colleagues in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1437, the PRECIP Act. This legislation, sponsored by the Chairwoman of the Environmental Subcommittee, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), would amend the Weather Act to enhance precipitation estimates and improve how NOAA works with stakeholder groups to best utilize this data.

This precipitation data is crucial to our forecasting abilities. Accurate precipitation estimates not only inform

our decisions on agriculture and water resources but also help us better predict and protect ourselves from natural disasters like flooding and landslides. To improve these estimates, this bill directs NOAA to partner with the National Academies to review current practices for estimating precipitation and identifying research needs in order to improve these forecasts.

Additionally, the legislation requires NOAA to update its maximum precipitation estimates within 6 years of the National Academies report and every 10 years afterward.

Finally, this bill directs NOAA to develop and publish a national guidance document for Federal and State agencies, meteorologists, and other users to follow when performing probable maximum precipitation studies.

The commonsense steps in this bill will provide tremendous benefits across the country. Communities will benefit from access to better data as they make key decisions about creating and updating infrastructure to address extreme weather events, including flooding.

This will make a real difference across America. My home State of Oklahoma is home to thousands of dams. Many of these structures are in need of repair and modernization, and the communities responsible for these dams rely on accurate data to ensure we are prepared for future rainfall. Too often, we have had to rely on out-of-date data to make these critical decisions, which will not be the case if the PRECIP Act becomes law.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the legislation, and I will thank Chairwoman SHERRILL for her work on this important topic. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I have seen Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL of Michigan's 12th District, in her waders, moving around her district, including Dearborn, in flood-ridden neighborhoods. This is a crisis.

It is important to pass the PRECIP Act, as introduced by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), co-led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

This is a remarkable piece of legislation that will make a huge difference to this country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I once again thank Representative SHERRILL for sponsoring this important legislation. Better precipitation estimates will improve the way we do business, manage infrastructure, and prevent losses during natural disasters.

This is a smart and practical bill that ensures we have accurate data from NOAA on precipitation. It also ensures NOAA will update its estimates more frequently so communities can use timely data to make crucial decisions.

I appreciate my colleagues' work on this important topic, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, in closing, H.R. 1437, the PRECIP Act, is of great merit. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1437, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1872) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1872

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury; and

(2) the term "United States Army Rangers Veteran of World War II" means any individual who—

(A) served in the Armed Forces—

(i) honorably;

(ii) in an active duty status; and

(iii) at any time during the period beginning on June 19, 1942, and ending on September 2, 1945; and

(B) was assigned to a Ranger Battalion of the Army at any time during the period described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In World War II, the Army formed 6 Ranger Battalions and 1 provisional battalion. All members of the Ranger Battalions were volunteers. The initial concept of Ranger units drew from the British method of using highly trained "commando" units and the military tradition of the United States of utilizing light infantry for scouting and raiding operations.

(2) The Ranger Battalions of World War II consisted of—

(A) the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was activated on June 19, 1942, in Northern Ireland;

(B) the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was activated on April 1, 1943, at Camp Forrest, Tennessee;

(C) the 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was—

(i) activated as provisional on May 21, 1943, in North Africa; and

(ii) constituted on July 21, 1943, and concurrently consolidated with the provisional unit described in clause (i);

(D) the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was—

(i) activated as provisional on May 29, 1943, in North Africa; and

(ii) constituted on July 21, 1943, and concurrently consolidated with the provisional unit described in clause (i);

(E) the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was activated on September 1, 1943, at Camp Forrest, Tennessee;

(F) the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was—

(i) originally activated on January 20, 1941, at Fort Lewis, Washington, as the 98th Field Artillery Battalion; and

(ii) converted and redesignated on September 26, 1944, as the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion; and

(G) the 29th Ranger Infantry Battalion, a provisional Army National Guard unit that was—

(i) activated on December 20, 1942, at Tidworth Barracks, England; and

(ii) disbanded on October 18, 1943.

(3) The first combat operations of Army Rangers occurred on August 19, 1942, when 50 Rangers took part in the British-Canadian raid on the French coastal town of Dieppe.

(4) The 1st Ranger Battalion, under the leadership of Major William O. Darby, was used in full strength during the landings at Arzew, Algeria, during the North African campaign. Due to the success of the Rangers in several difficult battles, particularly at El Guettar in March and April of 1943, 2 additional Ranger Battalions were organized in North Africa.

(5) During the North African campaign, the 1st Ranger Battalion was awarded battle honors for its actions in Tunisia. On March 20, 1943, the Battalion penetrated enemy lines and captured the position Djebel el Ank in a nighttime attack, taking more than 200 prisoners. Two days later, the battalion was attacked by the 10th Panzer division of the German Afrika Korps and, despite heavy losses, continued to defend its position. The following day, the 1st Battalion counter-attacked to clear high ground overlooking the positions held by the Armed Forces. These actions demonstrated the ability of the Rangers to fight in difficult terrain and the courage to endure despite being outnumbered and exposed to heavy enemy fire.

(6) The 29th provisional Ranger Battalion was formed from volunteers drawn from the 29th Infantry Division stationed in England in the fall of 1942. The Battalion was activated on December 20, 1942, and accompanied British commandos on 3 small-scale raids in Norway. Nineteen members of the 29th Ranger Battalion conducted a raid on a German radar site in France on the night of September 3, 1943. After that raid, the 29th Ranger Battalion was disbanded because new Ranger units, the 2d and 5th Battalions, were being formed.

(7) During the summer and fall of 1943, the 1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions were heavily involved in the campaign in Sicily and the landings in Italy. The 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions conducted a night amphibious landing in Sicily and secured the landing beaches for the main force. The 3d Battalion landed separately at Licata, Sicily, and was able to silence gun positions on an 82-foot cliff overlooking the invasion beaches.